

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

D/FBIS Chrono

P. O. Box 2604
Washington, D. C. 20013

2 August 1985

Mr. Charles Z. Wick
Director, U.S. Information Agency
Washington, D.C. 20547

Dear Mr. Wick:

This responds to your letter of 1 July 1985 on establishing an alert service for Soviet propaganda and disinformation.

Working with Mike Schneider on the requirement, we have now instituted such a system, based on material we monitor from the Soviet central media. The flag "USIA ALERT" is being used for material sent to your agency. I will continue to maintain contact with Mr. Schneider to make sure this stays on track.

We are pleased to be of assistance.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Director

STAT

DDS&T/FBIS, [Redacted] (2 Aug 85)

STAT

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**United States
Information
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547



July 1, 1985

Dear

STAT

Thank you again for your willingness to cooperate in establishing an alert service for Soviet propaganda and disinformation.

Mr. Schneider of my staff reported on the June 10 meeting at which you worked out some of the details. He said that you needed guidelines for identifying significant instances of propaganda. They are attached.

I have great confidence that with your assistance we can achieve the aims of this project -- to respond more quickly to Soviet allegations. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further suggestions.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Z. Wick", is written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Charles Z. Wick
Director

Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, D.C. 20013

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FBIS Soviet Propaganda Alert Service

GUIDELINES

1. Significant initial commentary on U.S. or Soviet policy initiatives (not simple reporting that the initiative took place).
2. Significant shifts in the propaganda line on important issues.
3. Major new or resurrected allegations of U.S. malevolence in international relations.
4. Statements which could inspire a physical threat to USG personnel overseas.
5. Major new or resurrected attacks on U.S. domestic society, culture, or politics.

DEFINITIONS

1. Items must appear in the central press (Pravda, Izvestia, Krasnaia Zvezda, etc.) or international media (external TASS, radio Moscow external services, New Times, etc.). Major newspapers which have no particular political brief (e.g., Uchitel'skaia gazeta, Sel'skaia zhizn') should be used only in extraordinary cases.
2. A significant item is one in which an authoritative Soviet spokesman makes a pronouncement about a key issue in a major medium or setting.
3. A major shift is a reversal of the present propaganda line, the introduction of major new elements to the current line, or the dropping of important elements.
4. Important issues are basically those on the front page of the Washington Post and the New York Times. "Interim restraints," the TWA hijacking, the Geneva talks, and SDI are obvious examples.
5. Initial commentary is the first analytical statement from any central media source on an initiative.

EXAMPLES

1. The Gorbachev nuclear arms moratorium proposal.
2. Soviet reaction to President Reagan's interim restraints decision.
3. Soviet international broadcasts on the TWA hijacking.
4. Soviet attacks on U.S. human rights policy during the Ottawa HREM.
5. Initial Soviet charges of U.S. complicity in the Gandhi assassination.